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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,974	07/09/2001	Shell Sterling Simpson	10007647-1	7274

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EXAMINER

SINGH, SATWANT K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/901,974	Applicant(s) SIMPSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Satwant K. Singh	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 24 recites the limitation "product " in claim 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It appears to the examiner that Claim 24 should reference claim 20. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, <sup>kw 8</sup> 10-12, 14-18, 20-24, 26-29, 31-34, 36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aiello, Jr. et al. (US 6,337,745).

5. Regarding Claim 1, Aiello, Jr. et al disclose a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data held in a queue (graphical user interfaces 130, (GUIs)) (col. 5, lines 17-31), the production data to be delivered to a production device (direct job to a specific printer) (col. 5, lines 46-47); presenting the queue interface to a client (GUI provides an operator

with complete control over printer management) (col. 6, lines 64-65); generating a status interface for the production device (GUI includes main status display 140); and presenting the status interface to the client (GUI includes main status display 140 that allows the operator to manage the print operation) (col. 6, lines 64-67, col. 7, lines 1-2).

6. Regarding Claim 2, Aiello, Jr. et al disclose a method, further comprising managing the production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface (GUI provide an operator with complete control over printer management) (col. 6, lines 64-67, col. 7, lines 1-2).

7. Regarding Claim 4, Aiello, Jr. et al disclose a method, wherein the queue is capable of containing production data directed to more than one production device (Fig. 6, Printers) and wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface comprise generating and presenting the status interface for a production device selected through the queue interface (Fig. 6) (GUI includes a main status display) (col. 6, lines 64-67, col. 7, lines 1-23).

8. Regarding Claim 5, Aiello, Jr. et al disclose a method, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device (DTF process also updates the database with status information and error condition messages, and this information is made available to the GUI through the Queue Manager) (col. 5, lines 46-59).

9. Regarding Claim 6, Aiello, Jr. et al disclose a method, wherein the act of presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a

combined queue/status interface (The GUIs provide print operators with current view of the printing environment. The Queue manager also processes commands received from the operator via the GUI and updates the database accordingly) (co. 5, lines 17-32).

10. Regarding Claim 8, Aiello, Jr. et al disclose a method for mediating access to production devices, comprising: acquiring an access request for a production device (logging in and out of the system); presenting to a client a production interface for the production device (GUI), the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production data (using the GUI, a print operator selects a job in the server spool and directs the job to a specific printer) (col. 5, lines 46-47); placing in a queue production data selected through the production interface (to perform an operation on a job, the operator selects the job in the Job Queue Status table) (col. 7, lines 63-67, col. 8, lines 1-16); generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the production data in the queue (graphical user interfaces 130, (GUIs)) (col. 5, lines 17-31); presenting the queue interface to a client (GUI includes main status display 140); generating a status interface for the production device; and presenting the status interface to the client (GUI includes main status display 140 that allows the operator to manage the print operation) (col. 6, lines 64-67, col. 7, lines 1-2).

11. Claims 10, 16, and 22 are rejected for the same reason as claim 4.

12. Claims 11, 17, and 23 are rejected for the same reason as claim 5.

13. Claims 12, 18, and 24 are rejected for the same reason as claim 6.

14. Claim 14 is rejected for the same reason as claim 1.

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15. Claim 15 is rejected for the same reason as claim 2.
16. Claim 20 is rejected for the same reason as claim 20.
17. Regarding Claim 26, Aiello, Jr. et al disclose in a computer network, a system for providing queue management and production device status, the system comprising: one or more production devices (Fig. 2, printers 62), each production device having a production server operable to generate a status interface for the particular production device (Fig. 2, open print server 52); a client operable to display a user interface (GUI); a mediation service (Queue Manager 128) in electronic communication with the client and the production device or devices, the mediation service operable to generate a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data to be delivered to one or more of the production devices and held in a queue, present the queue interface to the client, and present to the client the status interface for a particular production device (Queue Manager functions as a traffic cop by controlling the distribution of print jobs across the various printers) (col. 5, lines 17-45).
18. Claims 27 and 38 are rejected for the same reason as claim 2.
19. Claims 28 and 33 are rejected for the same reason as claim 4.
20. Claims 29 and 34 are rejected for the same reason as claim 6.
21. Claims 31 and 36 are rejected for the same reason as claim 5.
22. Regarding Claim 32, Aiello, Jr. et al disclose in a computer network, a system for providing queue management and production device status the system comprising: one or more production devices (Fig. 2, printers 62) each having a production server operable to generate a status interface and manage production of a target document for

a particular production device (Fig. 2, open print server 52); a client operable to issue an access request for a selected production device and to display one or more interfaces (GUI includes a main status display 140 that allows the operator to manage the print operation, system configuration, and logging in and out of the system) (col. 6, lines 64-67, col. 7, lines 1-14); a queue for storing production data (server spool 126); an interface (GUI) conduit in electronic communication with the client and the production server or servers, the interface conduit operable to acquire the access request, present to the client a production interface for the production device to which the request is directed, and to place in the queue production data selected through the production interface (using the GUI, a print operator selects a job in the server spool and directs the job to a specific printer) (col. 5, lines 46-59); a queue manager operable to deliver production data from the queue to the production server for the production device to which that production data is to be delivered (Queue Manager functions as a traffic cop by controlling the distribution of print jobs across the various printers) (col. 5, lines 17-31); and an interface generator operable to generate and present to the client a queue interface and to present to the client the status interface for a particular production device (GUI includes main status display 140 that allows the operator to manage the print operation) (col. 6, lines 64-67, col. 7, lines 1-2).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

23. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

24. Claims 3, 7, 9, 13, 19, 25, 30, 35, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aiello, Jr. et al in view of Barnard et al. (US 2003/0005097).

25. Regarding Claim 3, Aiello, Jr. et al fail to teach a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

Barnard et al teach a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page (queue service web page 88) (page 8, paragraph [0070]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Aiello, Jr. with the teaching of Barnard to allow users a larger amount of control over print queues associated with printing devices over a network.

26. Regarding Claim 7, Aiello, Jr. et al fail to teach a method, wherein: the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page; the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.



Barnard et al teach a method, wherein: the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page; the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page (queue service web page 88) (page 8, paragraph [0070]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Aiello, Jr. with the teaching of Barnard to allow users a larger amount of control over print queues associated with printing devices over a network.

27. Claims 9 and 21 are rejected for the same reason as claim 3.

28. Claims 13, 19 and 25 are rejected for the same reason as claim 7.

29. Regarding Claim 30, Aiello, Jr. fails to teach a system, wherein: at least one of the production servers includes a web server operable to generate the status queue in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and the interface generator of the mediation service functions, at least in part, as a web server operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page having a first frame referencing the first network address and a second frame referencing the second network address.

Barnard et al teach a system, wherein: at least one of the production servers includes a web server operable to generate the status queue in the form of a web page

associated with a first network address; and the interface generator of the mediation service functions, at least in part, as a web server operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page having a first frame referencing the first network address and a second frame referencing the second network address(Fig. 6, Web Pages 57) (page 4, paragraph [0044]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Aiello, Jr. with the teaching of Barnard to allow users a larger amount of control over print queues associated with printing devices over a network.

30. Claims 35 and 37 are rejected for the same reason as claim 30.

### ***Conclusion***

31. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Patel et al. (US RE37,258) discloses an object oriented printing system that includes objects that provide query, data transfer, and control methods.

Gase (US 6,184,996) discloses a network printer with remote print queue control.

Leiman et al. (US 6,469,796) discloses controlling printing using a print server having a graphical user interface.

**Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is (703) 306-3430. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

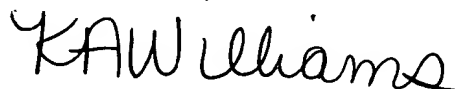
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



sks

Satwant K. Singh  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2626



**KIMBERLY WILLIAMS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**